

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA ON POSSIBLE CHANGES IN US LEGISLATION ON TRADE
WITH USSR

1. JULY 19 PRAVDA CARRIES ARTICLE BY ANDREY TOLKUNOV IN IMPORTANT
"COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN" WHICH STRESSES STRONG INTEREST OF US
ADMINISTRATION, AND CERTAIN CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS IN REVISING
1974 US LEGISLATION WHICH PLACES RESTRICTIONS ON TRADE WITH
SOVIET UNION.

2. UNDER HEADING, "AGAINST RESTRICTIONS", TOLKUNOV LEADS OFF
WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS RECENTLY SENT LETTER TO
CHAIRMEN OF A NUMBER OF US CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES EXPLAINING
NECESSITY OF IMMEDIATE REVIEW OF 1974 TRADE LEGISLATION AS WELL
AS LAWS EXTENDING AUTHORITY OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK. TOLKUNOV
EXPLAINS THAT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF US ECONOMIC AND TRADE
RELATIONS HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION IN US FOR PAST SEVERAL
MONTHS, WITH ENEMIES OF DETENTE USING DISCRIMINATORY TRADE LAWS

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AS WEAPON TO ENGENDER DISTRUST BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND TO BLOCK

COOPERATION IN OTHER AREAS BESIDES TRADE. HOWEVER, "SOBER-THINKING AMERICAN POLITICAL FIGURES HAVE MORE THAN ONCE POINTED OUT THE SENSELESSNESS OF DIFFERENT DISCRIMINATORY AMENDMENTS" WHICH ARE PRIMARILY HARMFUL TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE USSR CAN BUY EVERYTHING IT REQUIRES FROM WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. VETERAN AMERICAN DIPLOMAT AVERELL HARRIMAN" IS CITED AS ONE OF PERSONS HOLDING THIS VIEW.

3. TOLKUNOV ALSO ALLEGED THAT "MANY PROMINENT STATESMEN" IN US HAVE SPOKEN OUT SHARPLY AGAINST ATTEMPTS TO INTERFERE IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS "THROUGH BLACKMAIL AND PRESSURE IN AREA OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS". UNNAMED WRITER IN JOURNAL "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" IS QUOTED AS ASKING HOW AMERICANS WOULD REACT IF US TRADE PARTNERS WERE TO INSIST ON CHANGES IN US INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE, ALONG WITH THREAT OF BREAKING OFF TRADE RELATIONS IF THEIR DEMANDS NOT MET.

4. WINDING UP, TOLKUNOV NOTES THAT "GROWING TENDENCY TOWARD REVIEW OF LAWS WHICH ARE IMPEDING DEVELOPMENT OF US-SOVIET ECONOMIC RELATIONS" IS ALSO EVIDENT ON CAPITOL HILL. CONGRESS-MEN FRENZEL AND ASHLEY, AS WELL AS SENATORS SCOTT, HUMPHREY, AND RIBICOFF, ALL CITED AS IN FAVOR OF LIQUIDATING DISCRIMINATORY BARRIERS. WITH SENATORS DECLARING INTENTION TO CHANGE LEGISLATION.

5. IN CONCLUSION, TOLKUNOV STATES THAT "TIME WILL TELL WHAT THE AMERICAN LEGISLATORS WILL ACCOMPLISH" BUT THE SOVIET UNION WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP ITS RELATIONS ON A BASIS OF MUTUAL EQUALITY WITH ALL COUNTRIES AND IN THE SPIRIT OF RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS.

6. COMMENT: IN WAKE OF RECENT SENATORIAL VISIT TO MOSCOW AND APOLLO-SOYUZ LINK-UP, THIS ARTICLE APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY STRAIGHT FORWARD AND MILDLY OPTIMISTIC, FREE OF SOME OF POLEMICS AND ATTACKS ON SPECIFIC PERSONALITIES, ESPECIALLY SENATOR JACKSON, WHICH HAVE BEEN PRESENT IN MANY SOVIET COMMENTARIES ON THIS SUBJECT OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS.

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